Steps for utilising talents of the Scientists

2123. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to utilise the talents of the Indian Scientists in order to give an impetus to scinetific work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): A number of steps have been taken from time to time for utilising talents of Indian Scientists for promoting scientific work. Some of these are:

- Creation of S&T infrastructural facilities in the form of S&T institutions, national research laboratories, universities and other institutions of higher learning etc. for pursuing scientific work.

- Increased Plan Allocations for Science and Technology for the Central Sector as well as State Sector during the 8th Five Year Plan which will help strengthening and modernising facilities for scientific work.

- R&D incentives for growth of industrial activity in various public and private industries.

- Several S&T departments have established special extramural R&D schemes in specific areas of science and technology for doing research in frontier areas.

- Initiation of special schemes for encouragement to young scientists and retired scientists for using their talents. Several Science & Technology departments have also special Fellowship Schemes for scientists, both Senior and Young, in specific areas of science and technology.

- Setting up of Core Groups, Centres of Excellence in Universities and Academic Institutions with necessary modern facilities for pursuing research.

- S&T based training for entrepreneurial development.

- Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers to S&T institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.

- Provision of temporary placement of scientists and technocrats under the Scheme of Scientists Pool.

Change in the Funding Pattern for Scientific Institutions

2124. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to consider a change in the funding pattern for scientific institutions and research bodies in the form of loans and not in the form of grants as is done hitherto because of poor returns;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring research institutions/ bodies like CSIR etc. under this loans scheme; and

(c) whether Government would also consider stoppage of subsidy, support or tax incentives for R&D work done by the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) There is no such proposal, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.